

Appl. No. 10/707,275
Amdt. dated October 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 10, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yajima et al. (US2001/0050735):

5 Claims 1-11 have been cancelled.

2. Rejection of claims 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yajima et al. (US2001/0050735):

10 Claim 12 discloses a backlight source comprising a plurality of parallel U-shaped lamps or C-shaped lamps. The backlight source of claim 12 is mainly featured by:

1) Each lamp comprises a bending portion, a high voltage electrode at one end and a low voltage electrode at another end.

15 2) The U-shaped or C-shaped lamps is reverse disposed side by side along a first direction so that all of the high and low voltage electrodes are positioned in at least a line along the first direction, and the high voltage electrode of each of the U-shaped or C-shaped lamps is adjacent to the low voltage electrode of the same U-shaped or
20 C-shaped lamps, or the low voltage electrode of another U-shaped or C-shaped lamps along the first direction.

The Examiner stated in the Office action that the only difference

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between the cited prior art (Yamaji's teaching) and claim 1 is each of the U-shaped lamps comprises a high voltage electrode at one end and a low voltage electrode at another end, and this difference is obvious to those skilled in the art. In comparison with the cited prior art, however, claim 12
5 includes other limitations distinct from the cited prior art. Specifically, the limitation "the high voltage electrode of each of the U-shaped or C-shaped lamps is adjacent to the low voltage electrode of the same U-shaped or C-shaped lamps, or the low voltage electrode of another U-shaped or C-shaped lamps along the first direction" is included in
10 claim 12. Therefore, the high voltage electrodes and the low voltage electrodes positioned at either end of the lamps are arranged along a first direction, and each high voltage electrode is adjacent to the low voltage electrode of the same lamp or another lamp. In Yamaji's teaching, on the contrary, the high voltage electrode of a lamp disposed at the end is not
15 adjacent to the low voltage electrode of another lamp disposed at the end along the first direction (the direction in which the lamps arrange as defined in claim 12 of the present application). Therefore, the backlight source of claim 12 is not as obvious as the Examiner deemed, but includes other significant limitations distinct from the cited prior art as described
20 above. As a result, it would not have been obvious to those skilled in the art at that time to obtain the backlight source of claim 12 in view of Yamaji's teaching, and therefore claim 12 should be allowed. Reconsideration of claim 12 is therefore politely requested.

25 Claims 13-22 are dependent on claim 12, and should be allowed if claim 12 is found allowable. Reconsideration of claims 13-22 is politely requested.

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3. Amendment to claim 16:

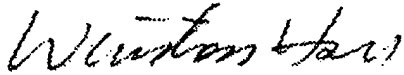
Claim 16 should be dependent to claim 12, instead of claim 1. This amendment only corrects a typographic error, and no new matter is added.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

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